

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2ND DISTRICT

# Jim McCune

## MOVING FORWARD WITH LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Our state has three main budgets: the operating, capital and transportation budgets. The transportation budget is financed primarily through state gas tax revenue and transportation-related fees, and is not experiencing deficit problems like the operating budget.

The 2nd District continues to benefit from the transportation budget. A total of 18 local projects were included in the \$8.5 billion supplemental version that passed, which I voted for in the regular legislative session. Our district has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of nearly \$1.4 billion for projects over the last six years. Some of the highlights include:

- **Cross Base Highway.** This State Route 704 project is vital to improving traffic flow and convenience for drivers. The first part of this project was completed last August — connecting Spanaway Loop Road to State Route 7, and adding dual right and left turn lanes to ease back-ups during peak travel times.
- **Yelm Loop.** This State Route 510 Yelm-Loop project is divided into two phases and will reduce traffic congestion in and out of Yelm and unincorporated Thurston County. Right-of-way purchases continue in anticipation of future construction. The first phase builds a new roadway from Mud Run Road to Cullens Road and is scheduled to begin construction this month.
- **Puyallup River Bridge.** This Puyallup River Bridge replacement project will keep the natural habitat of the area preserved and provide wider lanes and shoulders. Design on the bridge is underway and construction is expected to begin in spring 2011.
- **Eastgate Road and State Route 507.** This Eastgate Road intersection off State Route 507 (Roy/Spanaway area) project is focused on public safety. It removes fixed objects from the roadside, implements minor slope flattening, improves sight distance at 8th Avenue, and realigns the intersection.
- **Mountain Highway/State Route 702 at 304th.** This Mountain Highway/State Route 702 project added a new traffic signal at 304th that was turned on in December. This signal is critical because the intersection has experienced crashes, injuries and fatalities.



Rep. Jim McCune speaks at the ground-breaking ceremony for the State Route 510 Yelm-Loop project. Photo courtesy of the WSDOT.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
OLYMPIA WA  
PERMIT NO 92

## 2010 Legislative Session Review

**State Representative**  
**Jim McCune**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**Please join me in a town hall meeting**  
**Friday, April 30**  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
**Rosemont Assisted Living Center**  
215 Killian Road Northwest  
Yelm, WA 98597

**Saturday, May 1**  
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
**Spanaway Fire Station**  
17520 22nd Avenue East  
Tacoma, WA 98445

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
**Graham Fire Headquarters Station**  
23014 70th Avenue East  
Graham, WA 98338

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Orting Multi-Purpose Room**  
202 Washington Avenue South  
Orting, WA 98360

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2ND DISTRICT

# Jim McCune



## 2010 Legislative Session Review

Dear Friend,

The 2010 regular and special legislative sessions are now in the books. I would like to provide you information on some of the successes and disappointments of the last four months, and what we can expect moving forward.

The legislative sessions were dominated by the state operating budget, which faced a \$2.8 billion shortfall. Two different approaches emerged to solve this problem. The first focused on raising taxes, relying on federal dollars and transferring state funds dedicated to other purposes. The other approach, which I supported, was rooted in fiscal responsibility and sought to restructure state government, reform the budget process and generate revenue through a “Made in Washington” jobs plan. Unfortunately, the first approach was chosen.

The best way for our state to increase its revenue is to encourage more economic activity and create jobs. This would be a win for the state and, more importantly, for the families, individuals and small businesses struggling in these tough times. I supported many solutions that would have met these goals.

While the outcomes for the budget and economy were disappointing, the regular legislative session did produce great results in the areas of public safety, transportation projects and veterans assistance. I am proud to have sponsored and voted for many successful measures that were signed into law.

I agree with the sentiments of those who want government to live within its means and be more accountable. This is what I will continue to advocate for in the Legislature. While the legislative sessions are over, I am your state representative year round. If I can ever be of assistance, or if you would like to share your views, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature of Jim McCune in dark ink.

Jim McCune • State Representative

**Local office:**  
221 South 174th Street  
Suite D  
Spanaway, WA 98387

**Phone:**  
(253) 536-6088  
**E-mail:**  
mccune.jim@leg.wa.gov  
**Web site:**  
www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/McCune

**Committees:**  
General Government Appropriations  
(*Ranking member*)  
Capital Budget  
Technology, Energy and Communications  
Joint Committee on Veterans’ and  
Military Affairs

## HELPING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

### **Disabled Veterans Assistance Account established**

I am proud to have prime sponsored a measure signed into law (see picture below) that will create a new state account dedicated to funding services for veterans facing financial hardship. **House Bill 1876** establishes the Disabled Veterans Assistance Account, which will be funded through voluntary donations from patrons at retailers around our state.

This account will help veterans who are in need of medical equipment, emergency home and vehicle repairs, service dogs, and urgent food and shelter. The account will be handled by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

### **Renovating the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting**

I was the co-sponsor of a measure that would have authorized the DVA to work with public or private entities on projects involving the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting, which provides eligible military veterans necessary personal and nursing care, shelter, and related services. A similar version to my measure, **Senate Bill 6342**, was signed into law. I look forward to the renovation of the Garfield Barracks and what this will mean for our veterans in need of housing and services.

### **Housing assistance for veterans**

I also sponsored legislation that would have provided housing assistance for certain veterans through the state's Housing Trust Fund. **House Bill 2922** passed out of the Committee on Local Government and Housing with bipartisan support, but died in the Capital Budget Committee. While I was disappointed with this outcome, I will continue to fight for this issue in the future.

May God bless all of the men and women who keep our country safe. Our prayers are with you.



*From left to right: Rep. Jim McCune; Ted Wicorek of the Veterans Legislative Coalition; Bob Rudolph of the Veterans Legislative Coalition; Dennis Primoli of the Chairman Veterans Legislative Coalition; Gov. Chris Gregoire; Doug Adams; John Lee, DVA Director; David Pettijohn, Washington Soldiers Home Superintendent; and Alfie Alvarado, DVA Deputy Director.*

## STATE OPERATING BUDGET: HOW THE \$2.8 BILLION SHORTFALL WAS ADDRESSED

State lawmakers knew late last year that the budget shortfall would be around \$2.8 billion. The minority party in the House, which I am a part of, proposed solutions that would restructure state government, reform the budget process and create jobs through a “Made in Washington” plan. We also stood strong against tax increases, knowing they would be devastating for families, individuals and employers in these tough times. Nearly all of our solutions were rejected for a different budget approach.

The bottom line is our state must live within its means and focus on the priorities of education, public safety and the protection of its most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, state spending grew by a whopping 33 percent in a four-year period (2005-2009), with too little savings, and our state got away from its core priorities. Our state has a spending problem — not a revenue problem.

After 60 days of a regular legislative session, and 29 days of a special legislative session, the majority party and governor opted for an unsustainable budget approach based on:

- \$757 million in new tax increases (these new tax increases will cost private-sector jobs);
- \$661 million in spending reductions (though many state agencies have increased fees at the expense of citizens);
- \$633 million in federal funds (our national debt is at around \$12.7 trillion, or more than \$41,000 per citizen);
- \$328 million in transfers from state accounts (dedicated to things such as performance audits of government and other unrelated purposes);
- \$256 million in reserves (including \$229 million from the rainy-day fund); and
- \$178 million in cost shifts to other accounts.

## WILL OF THE PEOPLE IGNORED, TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT (I-960) SUSPENDED

The majority party and governor made a decision to suspend the Taxpayer Protection Act (Initiative 960) in order to make it easier to raise taxes and pass their operating budget. I-960, which passed with 60.4 percent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District in 2007, required all tax increases to have a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. The will of the people was pushed aside.

I voted against **Senate Bill 6130** — the measure that suspended the Taxpayer Protection Act. When this legislation passed, it signaled the beginning of new tax increases and the end of all possible state government reform. I believe state government should have sacrificed more before asking more from its taxpayers.

### **Nearly \$1.7 billion in new tax increases on citizens, employers**

I will continue to fight for responsible state spending, prioritizing state government and accountability in the budget process. This means convincing people in Olympia that the best way to generate more revenue is to create new jobs — not raise taxes. Raising taxes will result in the loss of jobs.

A lot of people have contacted me about the nearly \$1.7 billion in new tax increases for the 2011-13 budget cycle. These new tax increases will cost jobs and add to the prices of services associated with veterinarians, optometrists, dentists, graphic artists, attorneys, accountants, hairstylists, architects, direct sellers, banks, credit cards, and real estate agents. People will now also pay more for bottled water, soda, candy, gum, canned meats, beer, and cigarettes.

## ENSURING OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE

Local tragedies in Lakewood and Eatonville last year reminded us of the dangers our law enforcement officials face and just how fragile our community safety can be. State lawmakers looked at these events, and other incidents around the state, and came up with a package of legislation to address them and support law enforcement officials. I supported all of these measures and co-sponsored some of them:



- **House Bill 2777** will increase penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders.
- **House Bill 2717** will prevent outings of the criminally insane from state facilities, except for special circumstances.
- **House Bill 2625** will allow judges latitude to determine if bail is appropriate for offenders arrested on felony charges.
- **House Bill 2226** will revise the process for issuing firearms qualification certificates to retired law enforcement officers.
- **House Bill 2519** will enhance death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officials who are killed in the line of duty.
- **House Bill 1679** will increase benefits for law enforcement officers and firefighters who are injured in the line of duty and suffer permanent disabilities.
- **House Bill 2424** will update child exploitation laws to reflect the use of the Internet to view and share sexually explicit photos and other illegal depictions of minor children.
- **House Bill 2422** will expand the list of state and local agencies, and private individuals, that must be notified when a felon committed to a mental health facility escapes or disappears.
- **House Joint Resolution 4220**, the Lakewood Police Officers’ Memorial Act, would allow more discretion for judges to deny bail to suspects facing a life sentence and who are deemed dangerous to the community. Since this would involve a state constitutional amendment, voters will have the final say on it in November.

## CAPITAL BUDGET

### **Projects for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

The capital budget provides funding for the construction and repair of public buildings and other long-term investments, such as land acquisitions and transfers. It is separate from the operating budget and not reliant on past or new tax increases.

As a member of the Capital Budget Committee, I have helped secure funding for the following local projects that will benefit our communities:

**Pierce County Skills Center.** This center will open this fall and offer career options for students. Its purpose of guiding people to jobs and meeting workplace demands has never been more important in today's economy.

**Voights Creek Hatchery.** This 92-year-old operation, the state's top-producing hatchery, was under threat of closure last year. It is vital to the Puyallup River and fisheries in the Puget Sound area, and the local economy.

**Longmire Community Park.** This park offers walking trails, a new playground set and ball fields. It is a centerpiece for our Yelm community and brings families together for activities.